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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR APRIL 1991 JUNE 1991

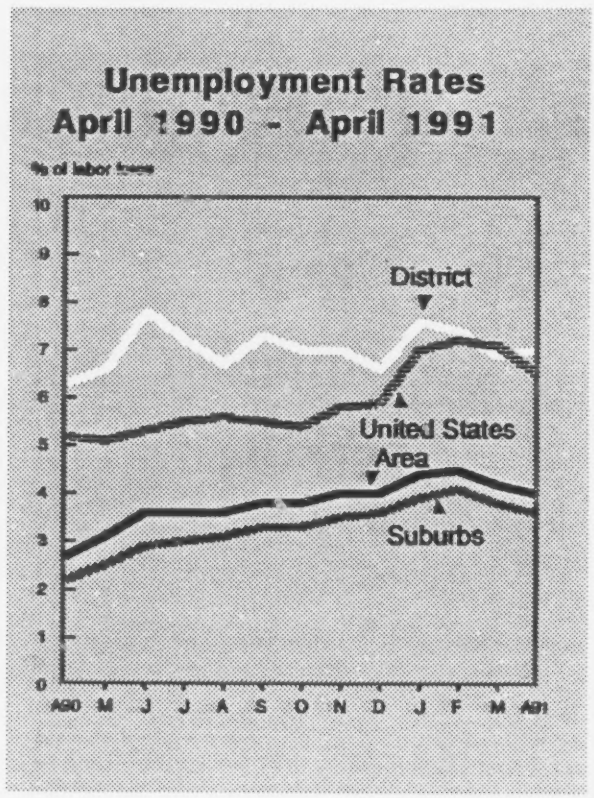
Area Unemployment Rate Falls for 2nd Month

Job Loss Stabilizes Over the Year

Labor Force

During April, only marginal changes were recorded in the local labor market. However, there were some encouraging signs that the recessionary declines may be easing. For the second consecutive month, unemployment rates in the Washington Metropolitan Area and its suburbs recorded small declines. The Area's rate dropped from 4.2 percent in March to 4.0 percent in April, while the suburban rate fell from 3.8 percent to 3.6 percent. The District's unemployment rate rose marginally, however, from 6.9 percent to 7.0 percent. Over the year comparisons continued to clearly demonstrate the negative effects of the recession. During the past year, the suburban unemployment rate rose a significant 1.6 percentage points, while the Area' s rate added 1.5 percentage points and the District's rate grew by 0.7 of a point.

Seasonally unadjusted unemployment among civilian workers across the United States in April measured 6.5 percent, down substantially from 7.1 percent in March. Over the year, the U.S. rate climbed 1.3 percentage points.



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Sharon Pratt Dixon
Mayor

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The Department of Employment Services

Working to keep Washington working.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR APRIL 1991 — JUNE 1991

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The *Area Labor Summary* is published monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gwendolyn Thompson, and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

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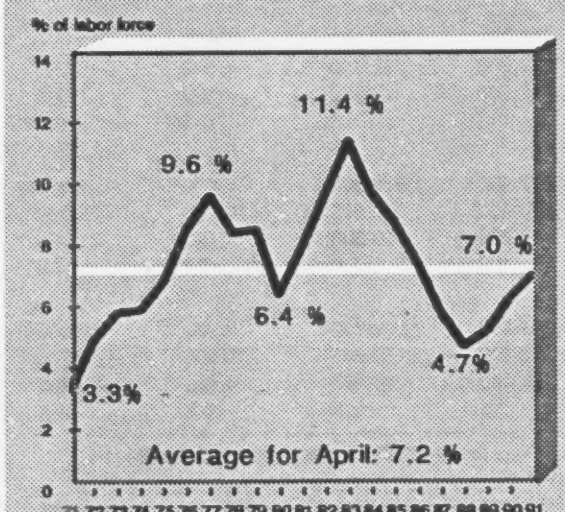
The District

During April there was little movement in the District's labor statistics. Local employers terminated 1,500 District residents from their jobs, while the same number of workers left the labor force. As a result, the jobless rolls decreased by just 100 workers. These changes, however, were sufficient to push the rate up a tenth of a percent. The April rate increase was rather unusual. Over the past 14 years, the District's April rate fell 11 times, it remained unchanged once, and rose only twice including this year. Thus, this April's upward change did not reflect the expected downward seasonal pattern of most past years.

The true measurement of the current status of the labor market continues to be the over-the-year changes in the labor force, employment and unemployment. During the past year, the supply of District workers fell by 13,000, a decline of 4.4 percent. This decline of workers in the labor force reflects an almost equal reduction of 13,900 (5 percent) in residents holding jobs. The net effect was a 1,000-person increase in the unemployment rolls, an over-the-year increase of 5.3 percent. Thus, the major impact of the recession in the District appears to be primarily a decline in labor force participation, rather than an increase in unemployment. Nevertheless, the District's unemployment rate increased over the year a significant 0.7 of a percentage point.

At 7.0 percent, the rate represents the highest April unemployment rate in the past 5 years. The rate is now approaching the long-term 7.2 percent 20-year average for the month of April. However, the rate is still substantially below the record high of 11.4 percent set in April 1983.

District Unemployment Rates in the Month of April 1971 - 1991



The Area and Suburbs

In April, local employers hired more suburbanites than those entering the labor force. The monthly employment expansion reduced the suburban unemployment rolls and thereby the unemployment rate. Between

Continued on page 4

Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C. MSA by City and County

	Apr.a/ 1991	Mar.b/ 1991	Apr.b/ 1990
1. District of Columbia	**7.0**	**6.9**	**6.3**
2. Calvert County	6.7	7.3	3.2
3. Manassas City	6.1	7.3	2.0
4. Frederick County	6.0	6.9	3.0
5. Stafford County	5.8	6.7	2.8
6. Prince Georges County	4.4	4.4	3.0
7. Charles County	4.3	4.8	2.3
8. Alexandria City	4.0	4.2	2.4
9. Prince William County	4.0	4.7	2.0
10. Manassas Park City	3.6	3.8	2.2
11. Loudoun County	3.4	3.8	1.3
12. Montgomery County	3.0	3.1	2.0
13. Arlington County	3.0	3.1	1.8
14. Falls Church City	2.8	3.0	1.3
15. Fairfax County	2.7	3.0	1.7
16. Fairfax City	1.7	2.1	1.6

a/ Preliminary. b/ Revised.
SOURCE: The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Continued from page 3

March and April, 5,400 suburbanites joined the labor force and 10,100 found jobs. Consequently, 4,700 unemployed workers were drawn from the jobless rolls. This was the second consecutive monthly decline in the suburban rate.

If viewed over the year, a much different picture emerges. Between April 1990 and April 1991, the size of the suburban labor supply remained virtually unchanged. At the same time, however, 32,000 suburbanites lost their jobs. This represents an employment decrease of nearly 2 percent. Unlike in the District, suburban job losers remained in the labor force and these jobless people were counted among April's unemployed. Over the year, unemployment in the suburbs has increased by 84 percent. This unusually large increase in joblessness pushed the suburban unemployment rate up 1.6 percentage points. However, at only 3.6 percent of the labor force, the unemployment rate is very low for a recessionary period.

When April labor market activities in the District and the suburbs were combined, the results produced only small changes in April's labor statistics for the Washington Area. Only 3,900 new workers joined the labor force of nearly 2.2 million people. In April, employers hired 8,600 more workers, 4,800 of whom came from the unemployment pool. This monthly activity produced the two tenths of percent decline in the rate from March to April.

Over the year changes were more dramatic than the monthly changes. Persons living in the Washington Area lost 46,200 jobs last year. Of these job losers, 14,000 left the labor market while the other 32,200 joined the ranks of the unemployed. This jobless increase represents nearly a 58 percent expansion in the total number of unemployed Area residents. Interestingly, nearly 97 percent of the increase in Area unemployment represents persons living in the suburbs. These changes pushed the Area's unemployment rate up from 2.5 percent last April to 4.0 percent this April. This represents the highest April unemployment rate in the Washington Area in seven years. Despite the increase this past year, the Washington Area continues to record one of the lowest unemployment rates among major metropolitan areas across the nation.

While the decline of the unemployment rate in the Washington Area for the past two months is encouraging, the expansion in employment so far this spring has not been particularly strong. A sustained turnaround in the current recessionary trends in the labor market will require much higher levels of hiring over the next several months.

Employment Status for the Civilian Population
District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA
April 1991[a/]

	Apr.[b/] 1991	Mar.[c/] 1991	Apr.[d/] 1990	Mar.[d/] 1990	Net Change from Mar. 1991	Net Change from Apr. 1990
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	283,700	285,200	296,700	302,500	-1,500	-13,000
Total Employed	264,000	265,500	277,900	283,600	-1,500	-13,900
Total Unemployed	19,700	19,800	18,700	18,900	-100	1,000
Unemployment Rate[e/]	7.0	6.9	6.3	6.3	0.1	0.7
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	1,906,500	1,901,100	1,907,500	1,919,500	5,400	-1,000
Total Employed	1,838,100	1,828,000	1,870,400	1,880,200	10,100	-32,300
Total Unemployed	68,400	73,100	37,200	39,300	-4,700	31,200
Unemployment Rate[e/]	3.6	3.8	2.0	2.0	-0.2	1.6
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,190,200	2,186,300	2,204,200	2,222,000	3,900	-14,000
Total Employed	2,102,100	2,093,500	2,148,300	2,163,800	8,600	-46,200
Total Unemployed	88,100	92,900	55,900	58,200	-4,800	32,200
Unemployment Rate[e/]	4.0	4.2	2.5	2.6	-0.2	1.5

a/ Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding. b/ Preliminary.
c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions. e/ Seasonally unadjusted.
Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia, the Virginia Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.

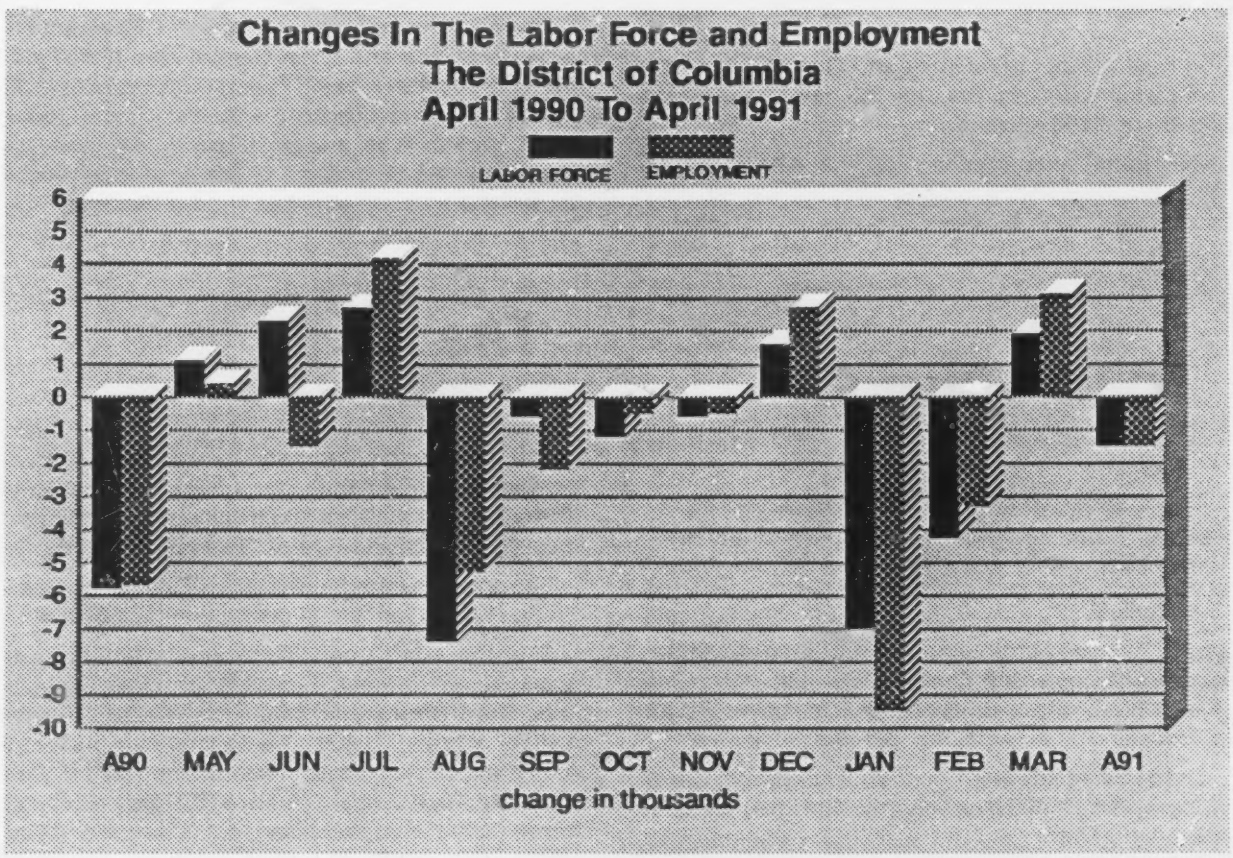
Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in the District of Columbia totaled 13,722 in April 1991, down 1,627 from March and up 4,405 from a year ago. In April 1991, 58 percent of all UI claimants were males. Occupationally, professional, technical and managerial workers accounted for 27 percent of the total workers. This was followed by 23 percent in clerical and sales and 19 percent each for service and structural workers. The remaining 12 percent was distributed between machine trades, bench work, processing and miscellaneous workers.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 10.3 weeks for all claimants in April. Over the month, the duration for males rose from 9.9 weeks to 10.4 weeks, while for females the duration rose from 9.9 weeks to 10.0 weeks. A year ago, the duration was 10.0 weeks for males and 10.3 weeks for females.

Labor Force Distribution
Washington Metropolitan Area
April 1991 & April 1990
(percent)

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed
		APRIL 1991	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	13.0	12.6	22.4
Suburbs	87.0	87.4	77.6
		APRIL 1990	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	13.5	12.9	33.5
Suburbs	86.5	87.1	66.5



Job Growth

The District

The number of jobs in the District decreased by 2,100 for a loss of 0.3 percent between March and April. The public sector was primarily responsible for the loss with a decline of 1,700 jobs in Federal Government.

The private sector declined by 400 with a primarily seasonal gain in Trade (800 jobs) offset by losses in Services (500 jobs), Construction (300 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (300 jobs).

Over the year (April 1990 to April 1991), the number of District jobs decreased 0.1 percent for a loss of 900 jobs. **The private sector decreased at a rate of 0.2 percent for a loss of 1,000 jobs.** Losses were primarily concentrated in Trade (1,500 jobs), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,000 jobs) and Construction (800 jobs) while Services, the only job gainer, registered growth of 3,200 jobs.

The public sector gained 100 jobs with growth in State and Local Government (200 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (100 jobs).

The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs increased by 0.1 percent for a gain of 800 jobs between March and April. The private sector was responsible for the growth with gains in Construction (1,600 jobs), Trade (1,100 jobs) and Transportation and Public Utilities (600 jobs). The Maryland suburbs accounted for three-fourths of the increase in Construction while the Virginia suburbs were responsible for 88 percent of the growth in Trade and Transportation and Public Utilities.

The public sector decreased by 1,900 jobs with losses in State and Local Government (2,100 jobs) partially offset by a slight gain in Federal Government (200 jobs). The Maryland suburbs accounted for 81 percent of the loss in State and Local Government while the Virginia suburbs were responsible for the gain in Federal Government.

Over the year (April 1990 to April 1991), suburban jobs declined at a rate of 1.2 percent for a loss of 19,300 jobs. **The Maryland suburbs registered a very slight increase while the Virginia suburbs decreased at a rate of 2.5 percent.**

The private sector, declining at a rate of 2.0 percent, accounted for the loss in suburban jobs with 92 percent of the decline in the goods-producing sector (22,200 jobs). Job losses were concentrated in Construction (19,100 jobs), Manufacturing (3,000 jobs), Trade (2,800 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (1,700 jobs) while the only job gains occurred in Services (1,300 jobs) and Transportation and Public Utilities (1,200 jobs). Seventy-six percent of the Construction loss and all of the decline in Trade occurred in the Virginia suburbs. The Virginia suburbs were also responsible for 57 percent of the loss in Manufacturing and 71 percent of the decline in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, as well as, all of the Services growth. The Maryland suburbs accounted for the growth in Transportation and Public Utilities.

The public sector grew at a rate of 1.6 percent with growth in State and Local Government (7,900 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (3,000 jobs). Fifty-eight percent of the State and Local Government growth was concentrated in the Maryland suburbs while 90 percent of the decline in Federal Government occurred in the Virginia suburbs.

The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area lost 1,300 jobs between March and April. The public sector accounted for the loss with declines in both State and Local Government (2,100 jobs) and Federal Government (1,500 jobs).

The private sector increased by 2,300 with gains in Trade (1,900 jobs) and Construction (1,300 jobs).

Over the year (April 1990 to April 1991), the Area declined at a rate of 0.9 percent for a loss of 20,200 jobs. The private sector, declining at a rate of 1.5 percent for a loss of 25,200 jobs, was responsible for the Area job loss. Job losses were concentrated in Construction (19,900 jobs), Trade (4,300 jobs), Manufacturing (3,300 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real

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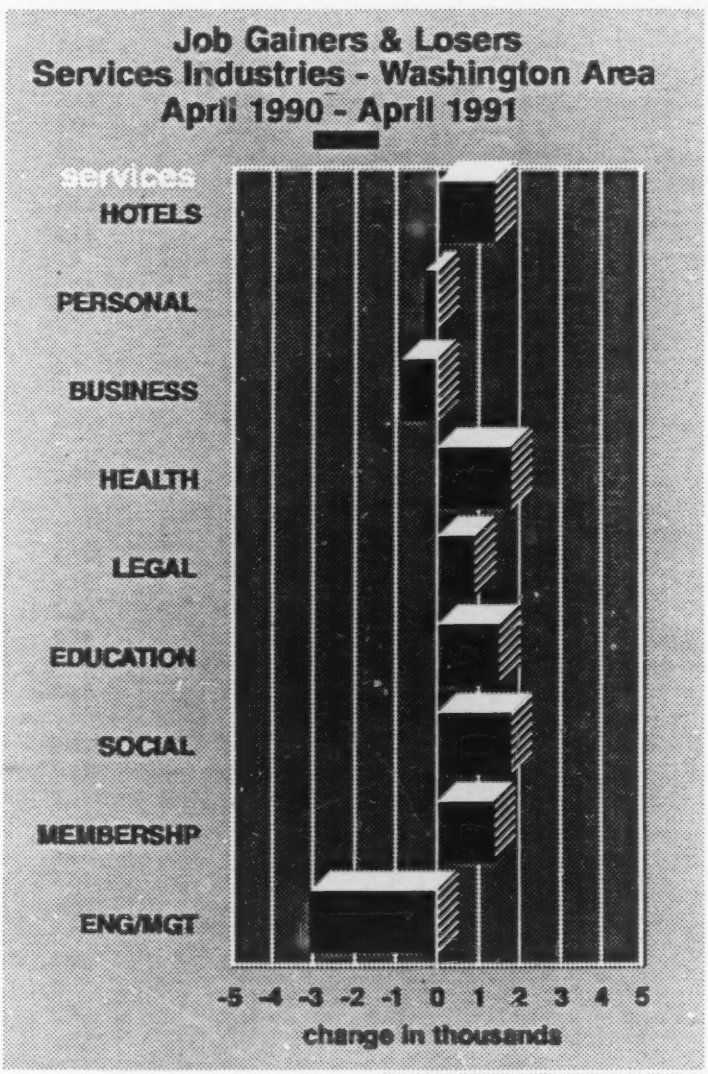
Estate (2,700 jobs) while job growth primarily occurred in Services (4,500 jobs).

The public sector grew at a rate of 0.9 percent with gains in State and Local Government (8,100 jobs) partially offset by a loss in Federal Government (3,100 jobs).



Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	Apr.[b/] 1991	Mar.[c/] 1991	Apr.[d/] 1990	Apr.[b/] 1991	Mar.[c/] 1991	Apr.[d/] 1990
TOTAL	**683.8**	**685.9**	**684.7**	**2,212.1**	**2,213.4**	**2,232.3**
Total Private Sector	**408.8**	**409.2**	**409.8**	**1,623.9**	**1,621.6**	**1,649.1**
Total Government	**275.0**	**276.7**	**274.9**	**588.2**	**591.8**	**583.2**
Total Goods Producing	**29.1**	**29.5**	**30.2**	**204.1**	**203.3**	**227.4**
Manufacturing	**15.4**	**15.5**	**15.7**	**84.3**	**84.9**	**87.6**
Total Durable	2.2	2.2	2.2	40.8	41.2	42.4
Stone, Clay, Glass Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.8	2.8	3.4
Electronic & Electric Equip.	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.2	18.4	17.1
All Other Durable	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.8	20.0	21.9
Total Non-Durable	13.2	13.3	13.5	43.5	43.7	45.2
Food & Kindred Products	0.3	0.3	0.3	4.7	4.6	4.5
Printing & Publishing	12.5	12.6	12.8	33.0	33.3	34.7
All Other Non-Durable	0.4	0.4	0.4	5.8	5.8	6.0
Mining	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**1.2**	**1.1**	**1.3**
Construction	**13.6**	**13.9**	**14.4**	**118.6**	**117.3**	**138.5**
Total Service Producing	**654.7**	**656.4**	**654.5**	**2008.0**	**2010.1**	**2004.9**
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	**23.5**	**23.5**	**24.1**	**107.7**	**107.1**	**107.1**
All Transportation	8.9	8.9	9.3	51.4	50.8	50.6
Railroads	4.1	4.1	4.2	5.2	5.2	5.3
Transportation ex. Railroad	4.8	4.8	5.1	46.2	45.6	45.3
Communications & Public Utilities	14.6	14.6	14.8	56.3	56.3	56.5
Trade	**60.8**	**60.0**	**62.3**	**426.0**	**424.1**	**430.3**
Wholesale	8.2	8.2	8.6	78.3	78.5	78.3
Retail	52.6	51.8	53.7	347.7	345.6	352.0
General Merchandise	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.5	35.8	37.7
Food Stores	N/A	N/A	N/A	50.5	50.4	49.5
Automotive	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.9	36.0	37.3
Apparel & Accessories	N/A	N/A	N/A	28.5	28.7	28.3
Eating & Drinking Places	28.3	27.2	28.4	116.6	113.9	116.7
All Other Retail	24.3	24.6	25.3	80.7	80.8	82.5
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**32.7**	**33.0**	**33.7**	**127.7**	**128.2**	**130.4**
Finance	15.2	15.4	16.0	58.7	58.9	60.2
Depository Institutions	8.2	8.3	9.0	38.8	39.0	40.2
Other Finance	7.0	7.1	7.0	19.9	19.9	20.0
Insurance	8.0	8.1	7.9	28.5	28.6	27.8
Real Estate	9.5	9.5	9.8	40.5	40.7	42.4

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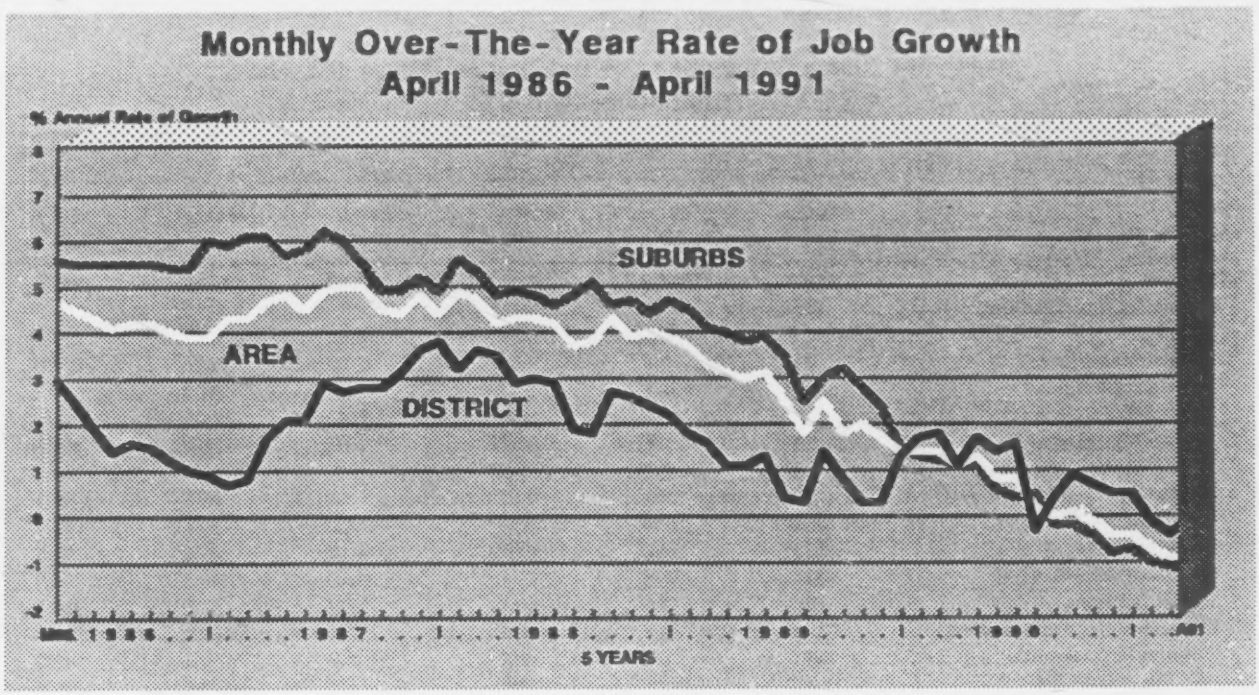
Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a/]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	Apr.[b/] 1991	Mar.[c/] 1991	Apr.[d/] 1990	Apr.[b/] 1991	Mar.[c/] 1991	Apr.[d/] 1990
Services	**262.7**	**263.2**	**259.5**	**758.4**	**758.9**	**753.9**
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	17.6	17.9	17.1	39.0	39.0	37.6
Personal Services	3.4	3.4	3.5	23.2	23.3	23.5
Business Services	38.4	38.5	39.3	180.9	181.7	181.8
Service to Buildings	13.1	13.1	14.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Personnel Supply	7.9	8.0	8.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Computer & Data Process	5.9	6.0	5.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Business Services	11.5	11.4	11.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Services	38.0	38.4	38.0	118.9	119.4	117.1
Legal Services	30.2	30.4	29.3	40.8	41.0	39.9
Educational Services	33.1	32.8	32.0	47.0	46.8	45.5
Social Services	13.1	13.1	12.8	37.2	37.2	35.4
Membership Organizations	34.8	34.7	33.8	63.0	63.0	61.6
Engineering/Management Ser.	44.0	43.9	43.7	144.9	145.1	148.0
All Other Services	10.1	10.1	10.0	63.5	62.4	63.5
Government	**275.0**	**276.7**	**274.9**	**588.2**	**591.8**	**583.2**
Federal Government	217.7	219.4	217.8	358.0	359.5	361.1
State & Local Government	57.3	57.3	57.1	230.2	232.3	222.1
State Government	52.5	52.5	52.3	81.4	81.5	79.3
Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	148.8	150.8	142.8
Public Transportation	4.8	4.8	4.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

a/ Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. Data subject to annual benchmark revisions. b/ Preliminary.
c/ Revised. d/ Data reflects benchmark revisions.

Data includes all full-and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

SOURCE: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Area Job Growth Rates

Over the past five years (April 1986 to April 1991), the Washington Area created new jobs at a rate of 3.0 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has declined from a peak of 5.0 percent in August 1987 to a net loss of nine-tenths of a percent in April 1991. **This marked the sixth consecutive month that the Washington Area recorded an over-the-year job loss. Importantly, the yearly job loss in April of nine tenths was the same as the loss reported in March. This could be an early signal that recessionary job losses in the Area may be bottoming out.** This April's measurement was down from a 1.1 percent increase reported in April 1990.

For the eighth consecutive month, the suburban economy recorded an over-the-year job loss. The April loss represented a job decline of 1.2 percent from a year earlier. This suburban loss was down from the yearly growth of 1.1 percent reported in April 1990. In the District, the number of jobs decreased over the year by one-tenth of a percentage point and represents a loss of 2.6 percent of the June 1990 maximum job base. the third consecutive over-the-year drop. The loss of District jobs this year compares to a growth of 1.1 percent reported in the same month a year ago.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from a peak gain during the past five years of 101,300 new jobs created between July 1986 and July 1987, to a loss of 20,200 jobs between April 1990 and this past April. Over the past year, 19,300 jobs were lost by the suburban economy, while the District lost 900 jobs.

The U.S. economy for the third month lost jobs over the year. The U.S. loss was the same as in the Washington Area (a 0.9 percent decline for the U.S. economy and a 0.9 percent decline for the Washington Area).

Job creation in the Washington Area peaked in June of 1990 with 2,271,600 jobs. Thus measured from that peak, as of April the local economy has lost 59,500 jobs to the current economic recession. This is

Profile of Job Growth Rates
April 1990 to April 1991

The Area	
Average 60 months	3.0%
High, August 1987	5.0%
Low, April 1991	-0.9%
1-year ago	1.1%
Last month	-0.9%
Current month	-0.9%
The Suburbs	
Average 60 months	3.6%
High, July 1987	6.2%
Low, April 1991	-1.2%
1-year ago	1.1%
Last month	-1.2%
Current month	-1.2%
The District	
Average 60 months	1.7%
High, December 1987	3.8%
Low, March 1991	-0.4%
1-year ago	1.1%
Last month	-0.4%
Current month	-0.1%

Note: Data reflects benchmark revisions for 1989-1990.

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- Labor Market Information
- Resume Bank

Department of Employment Services

Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Areas

In March 1991, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 271 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. The Washington Area's March's jobless rate was down 0.3 percentage point to 4.2 percent. This was the twenty-second lowest jobless rate of the 271 areas reporting. A year ago, the Washington Area rate was 2.9 percent, a 1.3 percentage point rise.

Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 4.2 percent was the second lowest of all the major metropolitan areas.

In March, the Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, posted a 0.2 percentage point drop in their jobless rate, falling from 7.0 percent to 6.8 percent. The Baltimore rate was up 2.8 percentage points over the year. The Baltimore area has the thirty-first highest rate among the 40 selected areas tracked in the *Area Labor Summary*.

The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington, posted a 0.2 percentage point decrease in its jobless rate. In March, the rate was 5.3 percent. A year ago, the rate was 3.7 percent.

Their neighbor, the Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport area had a 6.4 percent jobless rate in March, down 0.3 percentage point from February and up 2.2 percent from last March.

Of the 40 selected areas, Tucson at 3.5 percent was the only large metropolitan area with a jobless rate under 4.0 percent. Besides the Washington Area, jobless rates between 4.0 percent and 4.9 percent were reported in 5 other large metropolitan areas. Next to Tucson and Washington, the lowest rate was recorded in another Arizona city, Phoenix at 4.3 percent. Both San Francisco and Portland posted jobless rates of 4.5 percent. Nashville and Minneapolis-St. Paul recorded rates of 4.7 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively.

There were 15 large metropolitan areas with rates between 5.0 and 5.9 percent. There also were 11 large metropolitan areas with rates between 6.0 and 6.9 percent, 4 large metropolitan areas with rates between 7.0 and 7.9 percent, and 2 large metropolitan areas with rates between 8.0 and 8.9 percent. Detroit at 10.7 percent was the only major metropolitan area with a double digit jobless rate.

Of the 271 metropolitan areas for which March data are available, 177 had over-the-year increases of 1 percentage point or more in their unemployment rates. A total of 66 areas registered March 1991 rates of 8 percent or higher, while 62 had rates of 5 percent or below.

Unemployment Rates in Selected Statistical Areas

MSA	March	
	1991*	1990
1. Tuscon, AR	3.5	4.1
2. Washington, D.C.	**4.2**	**2.9**
3. Phoenix, AR	4.3	4.4
4. San Francisco, CA	4.5	2.8
5. Portland, OR	4.5	4.1
6. Nashville, TN	4.7	3.7
7. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	4.8	4.4
8. Memphis, TN	5.0	4.5
9. New Orleans, LA	5.1	5.8
10. Seattle, WA	5.2	3.6
11. Houston, TX	5.2	4.5
12. Columbus, OH	5.2	4.7
13. Atlanta, GA	5.2	4.2
14. Hartford, CT	5.2	4.6
15. Richmond-Petersburg, VA	5.3	3.7
16. Milwaukee, WI	5.4	3.7
17. Louisville, KY	5.4	5.7
18. Kansas City, MO	5.6	4.8
19. Oakland, CA	5.7	3.5
20. Indianapolis, IN	5.7	4.3
21. Oklahoma City, OK	5.7	4.5
22. Denver, CO	5.9	5.1
23. Cleveland, OH	6.0	5.0
24. Dallas, TX	6.2	5.4
25. San Diego, CA	6.4	3.5
26. Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Newport, VA	6.4	4.2
27. Chicago, IL	6.6	5.6
28. Montgomery, AL	6.6	5.8
29. Pittsburgh, PA	6.6	5.0
30. Philadelphia, PA	6.7	4.4
31. Baltimore, MD	6.8	4.0
32. St. Louis, MO	6.9	5.9
33. Los Angeles, CA	6.9	5.9
34. Newark, NJ	7.1	5.3
35. Dayton, OH	7.3	5.6
36. Buffalo, NY	7.3	5.0
37. New York, NY	7.6	6.2
38. Miami, FL	8.4	5.5
39. Boston, MA	8.6	4.9
40. Detroit, MI	10.7	7.3

*Preliminary unemployment rates.

States

When the District of Columbia (with a March unemployment rate of 6.9 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the twenty-fourth highest jobless rate in the Country. This was seven notches below the position held in February.

Maryland's rate at 6.0 percent was down 0.5 percentage point from the February rate. Maryland's rate has been improving as of recent, however, it is still 2.3 percent higher than March a year ago. Among the 51 jurisdictions, from highest to the lowest, Maryland ranked thirty-ninth in March. This compared to thirty-fifth in February.

Virginia's rate was down 0.3 percentage point, falling from 6.5 percent in February to 6.2 percent in March. Virginia's rate also seems to be improving somewhat. As in February, Virginia ranked thirty-sixth among the 51 jurisdictions. A year ago, Virginia's jobless rate was 4.0 percent, up 2.2 percentage points over the year.

Twenty-nine states reported over-the-year increases in their unemployment rate of 1 percentage point or more. The largest jump—4.4 percentage points—took place in Massachusetts, while Maine, Michigan, and Montana all registered increases of more than 3 percentage points. No state reported an unemployment rate decrease of 1 percentage point or more.

Nine states had March 1991 unemployment rates of 8 percent or above, compared with only one a year earlier. Michigan (11.0 percent) and Massachusetts and West Virginia (both 10.3 percent) had the highest unemployment rates. In contrast, seven states had jobless rates of 5 percent or below in March 1991, down from 17 states a year earlier. Hawaii (2.6 percent) and Nebraska (2.8 percent) continued to have the lowest jobless rates in the Nation, as they had since July 1989.

Cities

In comparison with the 26 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a March preliminary rate of 6.9 percent) held the thirteenth position. This was three notches below the February position when it was sixteenth. In March, the average unemployment rate of the 27 cities was 7.6 percent, compared to 6.0 percent last March.

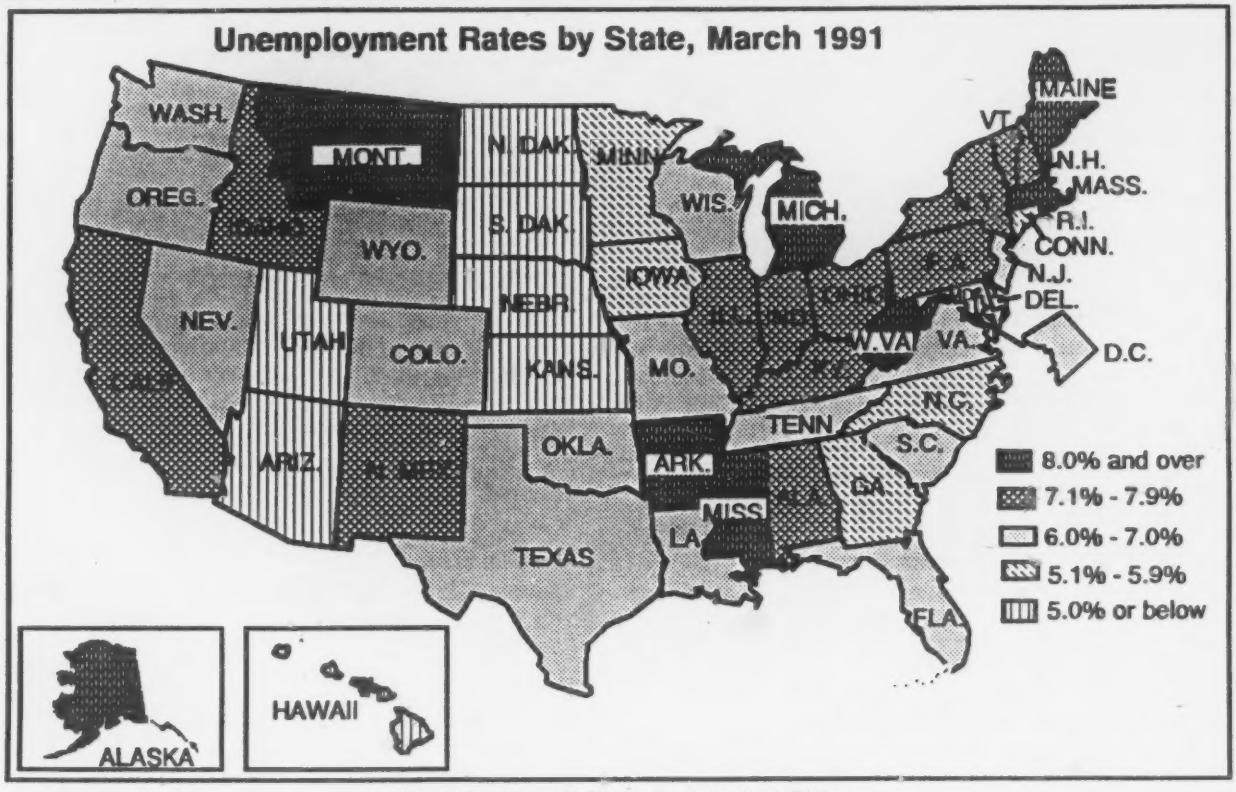
Only seven cities reported jobless rates at or below 6 percent, with the lowest posted in Phoenix at 4.4 percent, followed by San Francisco and Memphis both at 5.0 percent.

Baltimore's rate remained relatively unchanged at 9.3 percent. The 9.3 percent is 3.0 percentage points higher than the 6.3 percent recorded a year ago. In March, Baltimore had the twenty-fourth highest rate of the 27 selected cities.

For seven consecutive months, Newark has been a double-digit unemployment rate city. Newark's rate at 13.3 percent was up 0.6 percentage point over the month and 3.0 percent over the year. Newark held the twenty-sixth position same as February.

Detroit's jobless rate at 14.8 percent in March was up 0.2 percentage point over the month, compared to a two percent increase in February. Over the year, Detroit's rate was up 4.5 percent. Detroit recorded the highest rate of the 27 selected cities.

Of the 27 selected central cities, only two reported decreases in joblessness and twenty five reported increases in joblessness over the year. New Orleans and Phoenix recorded decreases of 0.8 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively. The largest over-the-year increases were posted by Detroit—4.5 percent and Boston—4.1 percent. These were followed by Miami—3.4 percent and Indianapolis, Baltimore and Newark each 3.0 percent. San Diego reported a yearly increase of 2.9 percent, Pittsburgh—2.8 percent and Philadelphia—2.6 percent.



Unemployment Rates in Selected Cities

	March	
	1991*	1990
1. Phoenix, AR	4.4	4.5
2. San Francisco, CA	5.0	3.3
3. Memphis, TN	5.0	4.5
4. New Orleans, LA	5.2	6.0
5. Columbus, OH	5.2	4.6
6. Seattle, WA	5.4	3.8
7. Houston, TX	5.6	4.9
8. Indianapolis, IN	6.1	3.1
9. Dallas, TX	6.4	5.2
10. San Diego, CA	6.4	3.5
11. Milwaukee, WI	6.6	4.7
12. Denver, CO	6.9	6.0
13. District of Columbia	**6.9**	**6.3**
14. Atlanta, GA	7.0	6.1
15. Pittsburgh, PA	7.6	4.8
16. Los Angeles, CA	7.7	6.6
17. Chicago, IL	7.8	7.2
18. New York, NY	8.1	6.8
19. Philadelphia, PA	8.1	5.5
20. St. Louis, MO	8.4	8.1
21. Boston, MA	9.2	5.1
22. Cleveland, OH	9.2	7.7
23. Hartford, CT	9.3	8.8
24. Baltimore, MD	9.3	6.3
25. Miami, FL	10.3	6.9
26. Newark, NJ	13.3	10.3
27. Detroit, MI	14.8	10.3

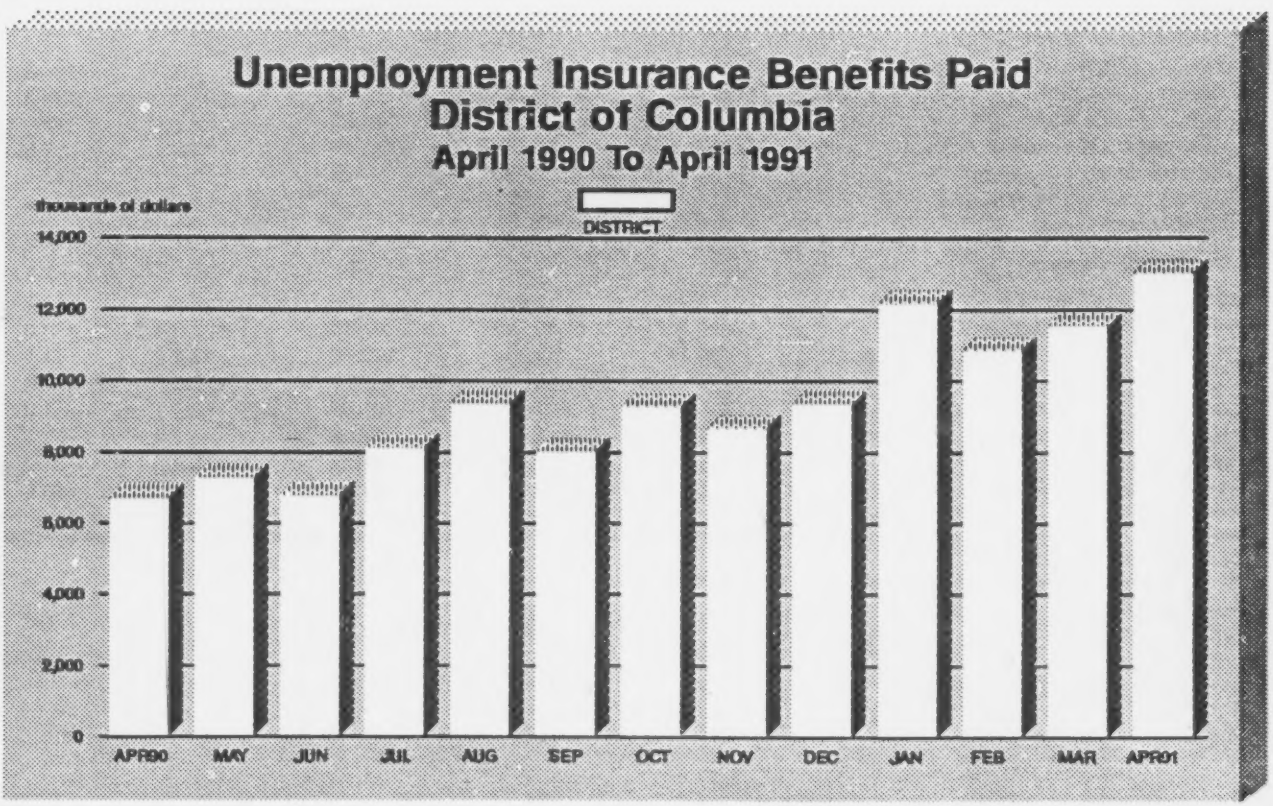
*Preliminary unemployment rates.

Unemployment Insurance Activities April 1991

District of Columbia unemployment insurance initial claims for benefits in April 1991 reached 4,000. The April level was 5 percent above March. This month marks a change in trend from the past several years, when April claims have actually dropped. The slight rise is, however, not consistent with the large increases which have previously been registered in the first month of most other calendar quarters. The first month represents the change of the base period for determining the monetary benefit of claims and usually there is a significant surge of filers. April continues to be somewhat counter to the general trend.

The number of jobless weeks claimed reached 61,000 in April, and is the highest monthly amount on record for the last five years. Weeks actually compensated—60,880—hold a similar record. Both measures rose 13 percent above last month. Weeks claimed this month were 80 percent above the same level last year, and the compensated weeks rose slightly higher at 85 percent. Also at a 5-year record level this month, the benefit outlay peaked at $13.0 million—13 percent above last month and nearly double (94 percent) the payout in April of 1990. These workload and payout levels reflect the continued downward slide in economic activity from last year to the present time. This has also been evidenced by firm closures and significant layoffs of employees by other remaining firms. The year-to-date (January-April) experience is record-setting same as April. The 17,250 claims filed through April represent a 37 percent increase over the same four-month period last year.

Also to date, 222,430 idle weeks have been claimed, and compensation for 222,580 weeks has been paid. The yearly rise for these measures has been 51 and 57 percent, respectively. The benefit outlay reached $47.6 million this year through April, and was two-thirds more than last year.



Selected Unemployment Insurance Benefit Statistics
(Regular Programs)
District of Columbia
April 1991

	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	% Change From Mar. 1991	% Change From Apr. 1990
State UI Program[a/]					
Initial Claims Taken	3,879	3,746	2,599	+3.6	+49.2
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	58,422	50,894	32,216	+14.8	+81.3
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	57,989	51,007	30,900	+13.7	+87.7
Total Benefits Paid	$12,356,976	$10,895,159	$6,254,716	+13.4	+97.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$213.09	$213.60	$202.42	-0.2	+5.3
Number of First Payments	2,613	2,853	1,499	-8.4	+74.3
Number of Final Payments	1,361	1,249	835	+9.0	+62.4
Total Beneficiaries	15,062	14,773	8,888	+2.0	+69.5
Federal Program[b/]					
Initial Claims Taken	85	48	70	+77.1	+21.4
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	2,345	2,427	1,656	-3.3	+41.6
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	2,639	2,586	1,824	+2.0	+44.7
Total Benefits Paid	$613,398	$590,522	$419,024	+3.9	+46.4
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$232.44	$228.35	$229.73	+1.8	+1.2
Number of First Payments	99	101	80	-2.0	+23.8
Number of Final Payments	96	64	68	+50.0	+41.2
Total Beneficiaries	664	688	506	-3.5	+31.2
Ex-Servicepersons Program[c/]					
Initial Claims Taken	32	25	36	+28.0	-11.1
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	296	321	266	-7.8	+11.3
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	251	233	199	+7.7	+26.1
Total Benefits Paid	$53,875	$49,355	$38,976	+9.2	+38.2
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$214.64	$211.82	$195.86	+1.3	+9.6
Number of First Payments	18	23	29	-21.7	-37.9
Number of Final Payments	16	17	7	-5.9	+128.6
Total Beneficiaries	68	78	70	-12.8	-2.9
Total—All Programs					
Initial Claims Taken	3,996	3,819	2,705	+4.6	+47.7
Weeks of Unemployment Claimed	61,063	53,642	34,138	+13.8	+78.9
Weeks of Unemployment Compensated	60,879	53,826	32,923	+13.1	+84.9
Total Benefits Paid	$13,024,249	$11,535,036	$6,712,716	+12.9	+94.0
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$213.94	$214.30	$203.89	-0.2	+4.9
Number of First Payments	2,730	2,977	1,608	-8.3	+69.8
Number of Final Payments	1,473	1,330	913	+10.8	+61.3
Total Beneficiaries	15,794	15,539	9,464	+1.6	+66.9

a/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE), and/or Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicepersons (UCX).

b/ Includes joint claims with Unemployment Compensation of Ex-Serviceperson (UCX).

c/ No joint claims.

Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing

Total Manufacturing Average Weekly Earnings in the Metropolitan Area for April 1991 decreased $1.40. Average Weekly Hours showed a slight increase of .1 hour, as Average Hourly Earnings dropped 7 cents an hour.

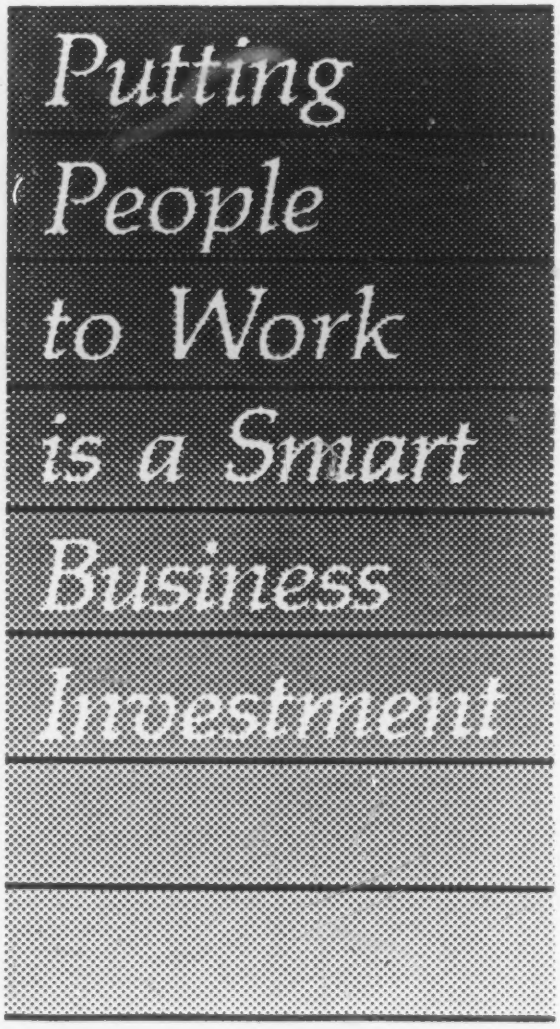
In the Durable Goods Sector, Stone, Clay and Glass Products' weekly earnings increased $20.18 and weekly hours rose 1.9 hours due to overtime. Average hourly earnings were down 7 cents due to an increase in the proportion of lower paid employees.

In the Non-Durable Goods Sector, Food and Kindred Products reflect overtime worked which caused weekly earnings to rise $26.49. Weekly hours increased 1.1 hours as hourly earnings rose 32 cents. A seasonal increase in Other Non-Durable Goods caused weekly earnings and weekly hours to increase $11.58 and 1.8 hours, respectively.

Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing
Washington Metropolitan Area
April 1991

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990
Total Manufacturing	500.26	501.66	475.59	38.6	38.5	38.2	12.96	13.03	12.45
Durable Goods	525.84	520.41	501.28	42.0	41.5	41.6	12.52	12.54	12.05
Stone Clay & Glass Products	505.36	485.18	547.24	41.8	39.9	48.3	12.09	12.16	11.33
Electric Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	499.25	500.82	438.06	41.5	41.7	40.3	12.03	12.01	10.87
Other Durable Goods	541.44	535.01	511.15	42.3	41.7	40.6	12.80	12.83	12.59
Non-Durable Goods	480.96	485.91	455.47	36.0	36.1	35.5	13.36	13.46	12.83
Food & Kindred Products	511.83	485.34	431.58	42.3	41.2	40.6	12.10	11.78	10.63
Printing & Publishing	505.24	520.36	478.08	34.0	34.9	34.1	14.86	14.91	14.02
Other Non-Durable Goods	379.37	367.79	375.93	39.6	37.8	39.2	9.58	9.73	9.59

Total Production Workers	Apr. 1991	Mar. 1991	Apr. 1990
	38,000	38,100	40,300



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1990 Unemployment Insurance Quality Control Report Issued

Recently, the Department of Employment Services issued its annual quality control report covering payments under the City's unemployment compensation program. The study found that 90.3 percent of the dollars paid to UI claimants were "properly paid."

Most of the overpayments (nearly 8 of every 10) were due to claimant error. The major cause was claimants not reporting, or under reporting, earnings received while receiving benefit payments. In 1990, 51 percent of these claimant errors were determined to be the result of fraud, or a deliberate failure to report earnings. A few other errors resulted from employers incorrectly reporting base year earnings of claimants. The remainder of the errors were mainly due to staff miscalculations in determining allowance for dependents or because of other processing errors. Persons interested in receiving a free copy of the report may do so by calling (202) 639-2000.

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